

SESSION VII

TIME: Thursday 10 May, 1:30-3:00

ROOM: Elizabethan Room A

TOPIC: Lessons Learned from Policy Review Assessments

MODERATOR: Raleigh Leef, Headquarters

Two recent efforts to assess the Policy Review process are discussed, along with initiatives to implement recommendations from an After Action Review.

IWR Analysis of Policy Review Comments (Scott Miner, Sacramento District)

Staff of the Institute for Water Resources (IWR) analyzed the HQUSACE policy review documents for sixteen feasibility reports for flood damage reduction, navigation and ecosystem restoration. Policy review comments were examined to identify common themes and recurring issues for each business line. IWR also evaluated the value added by the review process and the effectiveness of communications between HQUSACE reviewers and District offices. Results from this assessment will be presented and discussed.

After Action Review of Policy Review (Terry Stratton, South Atlantic Division; Mark Gmitro, Institute for Water Resources)

A workshop was held in January 2006 to identify examples of what has worked well and what has not worked well in Policy Review by examining projects that have recently gone through the Policy review process. The AAR looked at the Civil Works Review Board (CWRB) and the impacts it has had on the Corps. A second goal of the workshop was to identify opportunities for improvement of Policy Review. The AAR was based on a case study approach. Each MSC sent a Planning representative to present examples of two projects from their region that had undergone a policy review at HQ and ASA(CW). This presentation will include a discussion of the findings from the AAR, and plans for implementing recommendations.

TIME: Thursday 10 May, 1:30-3:00

ROOM: California West

TOPIC: Cultural Resources Activities post-Katrina and Rita

MODERATOR: Ervin Roemer, Memphis District

Presentations will be drawn from the following:

Overview on the Corps Role for Cultural Resources Protection and Emergency Management Response (Erwin Roemer, Memphis District)

A brief overview will be presented on how the Corps seeks to protect significant cultural resources as part of its Public Works and Engineering missions designated by the Federal Response Plan. This summary information is intended to provide background for other presentations in this session related to cultural resources activities associated with the Corps recent (and ongoing) work at areas impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. What is similar, and dissimilar, in how the Corps works under the National Historic Preservation Act during emergency work compared to non-emergency context? Insight and recommendations also will be offered from the presenter's work supporting the Memphis District's Recovery Field Office in Louisiana.

Hurricane Rita Geographic Information Systems Support for Environmental Analysis (Lawr V. Salo, Seattle District)

Providing GIS support for debris and temporary roofing missions in western Louisiana in fall 2005 revealed needs for substantial improvement in planning and implementing such support. Pre-positioning of data-loaded servers and a robust Spatial Data Enterprise structure would remedy many of the problems, but other weaknesses can be addressed only by appropriate standing agreements for data access among responders.

Debris, Demolition, and Temporary Structures: The Role of CRM and Emergency Ops (Jennifer R. Winter, Omaha District)

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, volunteer members of USACE have played a crucial role in supporting FEMA's recovery effort. Major portions of this effort have included Debris Removal, Public Housing and Public Structures missions, among others. These three missions necessitate the utilization of land parcels for dump and reduction sites, trailer courts, and temporary public structures. The Katrina effort also resulted in a new mandate for FEMA and its responders: debris removal from private property. All of these actions are federal undertakings requiring Section 106 compliance. In a post-disaster environment, where environmental law compliance takes days and hours rather than weeks and months, many on the Planning and Response Teams (PRTs) were unsure how to approach Section 106, and some were completely unaware of it. In this paper I address the lessons learned from a 6-week deployment to Task Force Hope Mississippi and suggest the need for formal guidance on Cultural Resource issues, the need for CRM staff on PRTs, and the potential of inter-agency CRM staffers for meeting the needs of ever growing missions.

Explanation of the FEMA Temporary Housing Mission and the Role of Cultural Resources (Howard R. Bush, New Orleans District)

This presentation will address the Corps' efforts to assist FEMA in the execution of environmental compliance activities in conjunction with the Temporary Housing Mission for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita within Louisiana. Important in this mission was the use of cultural resources specialists to assess and determine whether significant cultural resources were present and would be impacted by the development and placement of temporary housing facilities. Over 250,000 temporary trailers were requested for placement and supplemented with the rental and remodeling of hotels and other facilities to place families without suitable places to live. A programmatic MOA with the SHPO and ACHP was developed and signed which guided the compliance activities. Corps, FEMA and contract archeologists were used to assess, monitor and survey sites across Louisiana to ascertain whether various areas were suitable for the development of "group sites". Over 600 group sites were assessed, varying in type and setting from cow pastures in Northeast Louisiana to oil refineries in Sulphur, Louisiana to urban play lots in the middle of Historic neighborhoods in New Orleans. It is hoped that the presentation will identify the need for Corps expertise in the cultural resources fields to be recognized and integrated into the Emergency Operations planning and response teams fielded by the Corps of Engineers.

Not a Victim: The New Orleans District Cultural Resources Program and Katrina (Edwin Lyon, New Orleans District)

The New Orleans District cultural resources staff was severely impacted by Hurricane Katrina. Three of the five archeologists had their residences destroyed along with two cooperative education students. Archeologists were displaced from San Antonio to St. Louis for a period of up to 3 months. Nevertheless, the staff responded well to the challenge of emergency projects and support for FEMA. MVN archeologists completed cultural resources compliance for numerous projects ranging from levee repairs to borrow pits, and repairs to drainage stations. Deadlines were so tight that MVN archeologists developed innovative contracting solutions to prevent delay of emergency construction projects. In addition, the MVN Natural and Cultural

Resources Analysis Section received substantial funding from FEMA to support historic preservation and archeological projects. MVN contractors have surveyed damaged buildings in New Orleans, assessed historic districts, monitored construction at FEMA temporary housing sites and conducted phase I archeological surveys. This presentation will focus on lessons learned in response to this disaster.

Historic Preservation Considerations for Structural and Non-Structural Salvage & Deconstruction (Lauren McCroskey, Seattle District)

There are a number of considerations which might contribute positively to historic preservation in the context of structural and non-structural salvage and deconstruction. Influenced by work I have done related to Katrina recovery and historic properties in New Orleans and the Gulf region, I will discuss topics related to this area of concern. One overall goal is to seek maximum retention, preservation, and re-use of historic building materials and fabric claimed during demolition or hand deconstruction. As an option for mitigating widespread losses of properties to demolition, salvage and deconstruction language could be made a part of the NHPA Section 106 process. The deconstruction and storage of highly significant properties might be implemented to anticipate reconstruction later, or use for interpretive or commemorative purposes. Salvaged historic materials could be made available to property owners, agencies, and municipalities for re-use in historic rehabilitation or reconstruction throughout the region, and to support its fledgling recycling industry. Environmental justice objectives also would be enhanced because deconstruction generates new jobs and careers, and provides training opportunities for the broader construction field where there are increasing shortages of skilled workers.

Explanation of the FEMA Blue Roof Program to Traditional Roof Materials (Horace H. Foxall, Jr., Seattle District)

This presentation will cover work by the Corps to develop a system of providing a temporary fix for homeowners with "Traditional Roof Materials" that have sustained wind damage from hurricane such as Katrina and Rita. Under the existing FEMA guidelines, homeowners with traditional roof materials cannot qualify for the Blue Roof program. Providing some kind of roof protection to historic buildings is a critical step in stabilization these buildings. If these structures are not protected the long term result is higher cost of repair, increased community blight, demolition by neglect and most importantly, a loss of hope. To ensure the visibility of these structures and neighborhoods, it is essential to halt the deterioration caused by water infiltration as soon as possible. Volunteer action groups organized a field test based on techniques developed by the Corps and Durable Slate Company to see if the application would work on traditional roofs. The Roof Aid group selected four historic homes located in the upper Ninth Ward neighborhood of Holy Cross Historic District to try a variety of techniques. This technique used ropes and hooks to tie the tarps over the roofs and nails at the ends to fasten the tarp to the fascia.

Debris or Historical Property? (Ron McDonald, Portland District)

One of the many challenges facing the Corps was how to safeguard Mississippi's historic homes that were damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. Soon after my arrival I was placed in charge of debris removal for Pass Christian, Miss., which has a large historical district. Homes were swept onto the street, moved off their foundations, or reduced to piles of timber and roofing material. A system for protecting historic properties was established and QA teams conducted a physical inspection of each address on the Historical Properties list. Each property was rated based on the whether the building was on its foundation, the severity of damage, whether the building was destroyed, or the team was unable to locate the building. Only after being cleared by FEMA and MEMA could debris removal begin. So much of the Gulf Coast was damaged or destroyed that we were dedicated to saving as many historic properties as possible.

TIME: Thursday 10 May, 1:30-3:00

ROOM: Elizabethan Room B

TOPIC: Ecosystem Restoration Success: Project & Programmatic
Perspectives

MODERATOR: Rennie Sherman, Headquarters

Validation of Predicted Benefits of Restoration Projects (Jack Killgore, ERDC-EL; Jan Hoover; ERDC-EL)

Predicting restoration and mitigation benefits are a fundamental requirement of the planning process. However, predicted changes in either biotic communities or physical habitats are rarely validated after projects are completed. Lack of validation reduces confidence in predictive models, which may lead to interagency controversy over long-term benefits. The research will i) conduct post-project sampling of aquatic fauna (invertebrates, fish, amphibians) and habitat in restored waterbodies, ii) validate and refine pre-project predictive models, and iii) recommend restoration techniques with documented benefits to aquatic ecosystems. Environmental benefits of restoration projects need to be unequivocal and quantitative for widespread acceptance by resource agencies and constituents. The proposed research will result in numerical quantification of validated benefits using indices, which can then be used by the Districts in incremental cost analysis and to evaluate other types of economic gains.

Identifying impediments to achieving environmental sustainability in different Corps collaborator concepts of sustainability (Richard Cole, IWR)

Public service collaboration is most fundamentally frustrated by confusion over national goals. For nearly two centuries, natural resource development for economic gain was clearly the unifying purpose authorized for Federal management of public resources, even when guided by a sustained-yield conservation philosophy. Bit by bit the institutionalization of environmental protections became a counter-weight for economic development and increasingly balanced development with continued provision of natural services. Different defining language and concepts of sustainability now weave through agency and NGO policy and planning statements in confusing array. This presentation describes the differences, relationships, and points held in common, and considers how Corps planners might deal with them in future project and program planning.

Goals, Benefits and Performance: Using Conceptual Models in Assessing Restoration Outcomes (Denise Reed, University of New Orleans)

The many steps, and frequently long time periods, which separate the initial development of project goals and the ability to monitor outcomes on the ground make it even more important to track the understanding of how the system works that underpins the project. Conceptual models provide a tool to link project goals with anticipated outcomes throughout planning, implementation and adaptive management phases. Articulating the cause-effect relationships that drive plan formulation and the assessment of ecosystem benefits can also provide a framework for the development of a monitoring plan and ex-poste assessments of project success. Conceptual models provide a framework for capturing the understanding used in project planning and applying it to understanding project performance on the ground. Such models can also be used to prioritize the use of limited monitoring funds to identify the aspects of projects that most influence performance, as well as those features that can be adjusted over time to improve both individual project outcomes and future restoration efforts.

Measuring Environmental Success: A View From OWPR (Presenter TBA)

The Office of Water Project Review has many frameworks for considering success in ecosystem restoration and environmental mitigation. This discussion will introduce a number of these perspectives, to include:

- Resource significance – establishing the importance from institutional, scientific and public perspectives
- ASA & Administrative policies – current emphasis on geographical extent of restoration projects
- Perspectives from the Civil Works Review Board
- Project completeness – are all the resource stressors being addressed
- Roles of Corps and others – who is responsible for addressing the range of problems necessary to achieve success (collaborative planning)
- Watershed context – aligning aquatic objectives with upland; are future plans for the watershed aligned or at odds?
- Ensuring project performance and mitigation success – monitoring and adaptive management

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ROOM: Elizabethan Room C

TOPIC: Evaluating the Four Accounts in Collaborative Planning

MODERATOR: Jan Rasgus, Headquarters

The new Collaborative Planning Guidance (EC 1105-2-409) calls for evaluation across the four Principles & Guidelines accounts in planning studies. This session focuses on practical approaches to assessing the Regional Economics (RED) and Other Social Effects (OSE) based on a new IWR publication, and addresses how this information can be presented to better inform decision makers. The session will begin with a brief discussion of the background and purpose of the evaluation framework in the Collaborative Planning guidance. Related products being prepared by IWR to facilitate implementation of EC 1105-2-409 will also be introduced. Session topics will include:

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| - EC-409 background and purpose related to formulation / evaluation | Jan Rasgus, HQ |
| - Status of IWR products supporting Collaborative Planning | Lillian Almodovar, IWR |
| - Collaborative Planning Handbook | |
| - RED/OSE handbooks | |
| - Decision making Tools | |
| - Final white paper | |
| - Future tasks | |
| - Refresher on the Four Accounts (as lead into the rest of the session) | Lillian Almodovar, IWR |
| - Collaborative Planning Handbook | Carol Hollaway, IWR |
| - OSE Techniques (from white paper) | Susan Durden, IWR |
| - RED Handbook | Brian Harper, IWR |
| -Discussion and questions | |

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ROOM: Elizabethan Room D

TOPIC: Federal Agencies Working Together

MODERATOR: Ellen Cummings, Headquarters

During the last five years the Corps has increasingly emphasized forming collaborative relationships with various Federal agencies. This has included signing formal Memorandum of Understanding or Partnership Agreements with a number of Federal agencies. This panel will provide an opportunity for representatives of several Federal agencies to discuss their experiences working with the Corps.

The panel will be comprised of:

- Brian D. Ross, US EPA Region 9, Dredging and Sediment Management Team
- Dave Gore, Chief, Division of Design and Construction, Mid-Pacific Region, Bureau of Reclamation
- Patrick J. Rutten, Southwest Region Supervisor, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA Restoration Center
- Samuel Y. Johnson, Chief Scientist, Western Coastal and Marine Geology, U.S. Geological Survey